



The Brothers Grimm

Snow White

and the Seven Dwarfs



Retold by Sue Kassirer



Illustrated by Darcy May

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WITHDRAWN

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

by the Brothers Grimm



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On a cold winter day, a queen sat sewing by an ebony-framed window. As she watched the snow falling gracefully down, she pricked her finger with the needle. Three drops of blood fell to the snow. So striking did they look against the vast whiteness that she thought to herself, "If only I had a child as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as ebony."





Soon the queen's wish came true. She gave birth to the most beautiful child ever seen in the entire kingdom. The child had skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony. The queen named her Snow White. But alas, shortly thereafter the queen died.

A year later, the king remarried. His new wife was beautiful but proud. She could not bear to think that anyone might be more beautiful than she, so she had a magic mirror made, and she would often stand before it and say:

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is fairest of us all?*

And the mirror would answer:

Queen, thou art the fairest by far of all.

Then the queen would smile, for she knew that her mirror never lied.





In the meantime, Snow White grew more beautiful every year. There came a day when the queen stood before her mirror and said:

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is fairest of us all?*

And the mirror answered:

*Queen, there are none so fair as thee,
Except for Snow White, fairer yet is she.*

From that day on, whenever the queen thought of Snow White, she became so furious that she could neither eat nor sleep.

Finally, the queen could stand it no longer. She ordered a huntsman to take the child into the woods, kill her, and bring back her heart.

And so the huntsman led Snow White away. But when he pulled out his knife, the child wept and pleaded, "Please, dear sir, spare me my life. I will run far, far away and disappear." Taking pity on Snow White, the huntsman let her go and killed instead a young boar, whose heart he took back to the queen.



How frightened Snow White was, all alone in the woods.
But after some time, she came upon a little house with a tidy
garden in front. She opened the door and, seeing that no one
was home, stepped inside.



Snow White was delighted by the little house. Everything was so small and neat and clean! A table was spread with a fresh white tablecloth, and on it were seven little plates and goblets. Snow White was hungry by now, so she took just a taste of bread and sausage from each plate and a sip of wine from each goblet.



In the next room, Snow White found seven little beds with seven little blankets and seven little pillows. Feeling very tired, she lay down on one of the beds and was soon fast asleep.





When night fell, the owners of the house returned. They were seven dwarfs who worked all day digging for gold in the mountains. Right away, they saw that someone had been tasting their food. And when they went into the bedroom, they found Snow White lying there fast asleep. The child looked so peaceful and beautiful that they could not bear to disturb her.



Snow White had quite a fright the next morning when she awoke and saw the dwarfs. But they were friendly and kind and listened attentively to her story. They said that if she would cook and clean for them and mend their clothes, she could stay as long as she wished.

It was a happy arrangement. Every day the dwarfs went off to the mountains, and every evening when they returned, Snow White had their dinner on the table and their house as neat as a pin.

But the dwarfs were worried about Snow White being alone in the house all day. "You must beware of your stepmother," they cautioned her. "Soon she will know you are here. Whatever you do, do not let anyone in."





Now, the queen thought Snow White was dead,
but still one day she went to her mirror and said:

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is fairest of us all?*

And the mirror answered:

*Far and away to the seven 'dwarfs' home,
Young Snow White through the woods has roamed—
And none is so fair as she.*

The queen was speechless with rage! The huntsman had lied to her! She was filled with such fury that she vowed to kill Snow White herself. And so, disguised as an old peddler, she made her way through the woods to the home of the dwarfs.





"Goods for sale! Goods for sale!" the queen called out when she reached the dwarfs' house.

Snow White peered out the window and thought, "Surely this honest woman can come in." She unbolted the door.

“Dear child,” said the peddler. “You need some new laces for your dress. Here, let me help you.” And so Snow White let the peddler draw together some beautiful pink satin laces. But the woman pulled them so tight that poor Snow White could not breathe. She fell to the floor as if dead. Laughing triumphantly, her wicked stepmother scurried away.



The seven dwarfs returned home to find Snow White lying on the floor. They rushed over to her and saw how tightly she was laced. Quickly they snipped the laces, and bit by bit Snow White began breathing again. Then she told them what had happened. "Dear girl," they said, "that old peddler was none other than the wicked queen. You must let no one—but *no one*—in when you're here alone!"





As soon as the queen got home, she raced upstairs to her mirror and said:

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is fairest of us all?*

The mirror answered, as before:

*Far and away to the seven dwarfs' home,
Young Snow White through the woods has roamed—
And none is so fair as she*



The queen burned with rage. The child was *still* alive!
And so the queen made a poisonous comb. Disguised as an
old woman, she headed once again for the home of the
seven dwarfs.

"Fine combs for sale!" she cried as she knocked on the door.

"I'm sorry, ma'am, but I can't let you in," said Snow White, peering through the curtain. But the queen held up the jeweled comb, which glistened in the sunlight. Dazzled, Snow White let the old woman in.





“Here, let me comb your beautiful hair,” said the old woman. Snow White bent her head to allow the old woman to pass the comb through her hair. But no sooner had the comb touched her head than the poison started working. The girl fell down as if dead.

What a fright the dwarfs had when they came home and found their dear Snow White lying on the floor again. Spying the comb, they knew the wicked stepmother had been there. But as soon as they pulled it from Snow White's hair, the color returned to her cheeks. She sat up and told them what had happened. Again the dwarfs warned Snow White not to let *anyone* in the house.





Back home, the queen stood before her magic mirror.

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is fairest of us all?*

And once again the mirror answered:

*Far and away to the seven dwarfs' home,
Young Snow White through the woods has roamed—
And none is so fair as she.*



The queen could not believe her ears. Seething, she thought up a sure way to get rid of the child, once and for all. Off she went to a secret room, where she made a poisonous apple. One side was filled with poison, the other not. How delicious it looked! Disguised as a peasant, she made straight for the seven dwarfs' home.



When the queen got to the neat little house, she leaned through the window and said, "My dear girl, taste one of my fine apples." Snow White pulled back in fear.

"What? You think the apple is poison?" said the peasant. "Here, silly girl, I'll cut it in two. You take the red half and I'll take the white." And so the peasant bit into her half. Seeing that no harm was done to the woman, Snow White did the same. Instantly, she dropped down as if dead. The queen shrieked with delight and ran off through the woods.





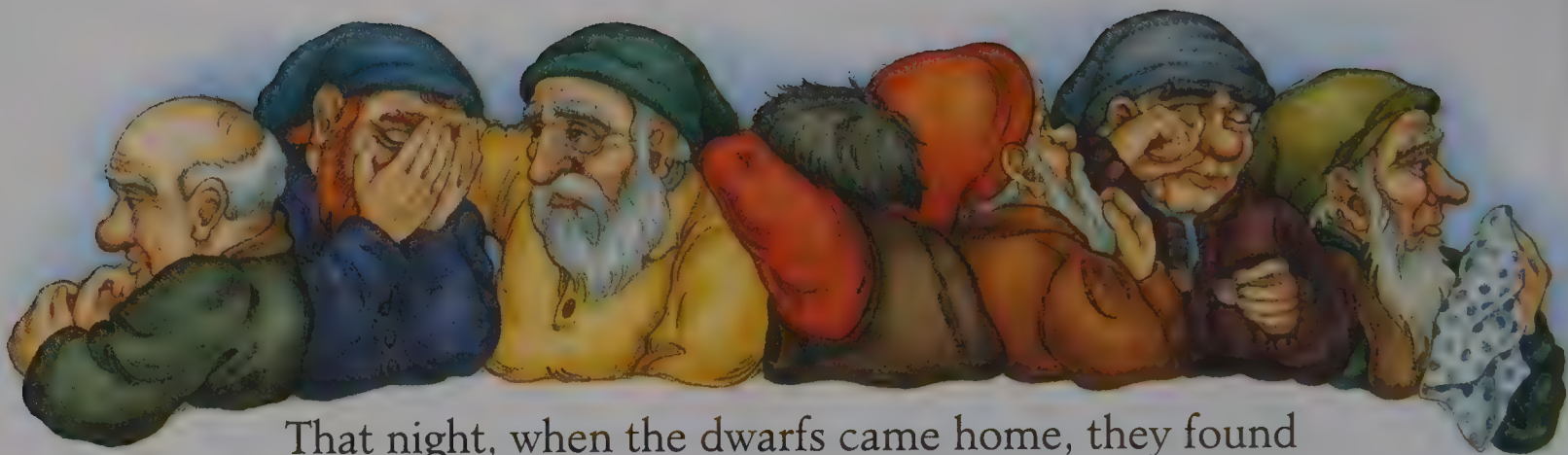
As soon as she got home, the queen ran to her mirror and said:

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is fairest of us all?*

And finally the mirror answered:

Queen, thou art the fairest by far of all.

The queen breathed a deep sigh of relief.



That night, when the dwarfs came home, they found Snow White lying on the floor and knew that this time she was dead. And so, with tears in their eyes, they made her a glass coffin through which they could gaze at her beauty. They set the coffin on a nearby mountainside.



It so happened that after some time a prince rode by. He saw Snow White lying in her coffin on the mountainside, and fell in love with her then and there. So he begged the dwarfs to let him have her. Now, the dwarfs had sworn that they would never part with Snow White, but they saw such love in the prince's eyes that they finally agreed.



As the prince's servants lifted the coffin and began carrying it away, they happened to jolt it. The piece of poisonous apple flew out of Snow White's throat. She opened her eyes and lifted the lid of the coffin. "Where am I?" she asked.

"You are with me," said the prince. Then he told her how much he loved her and that he wanted to marry her. Snow White fell in love instantly, and the two planned a grand royal wedding.





When the wicked stepmother received an invitation to the wedding feast, she ran to her magic mirror and asked:

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is fairest of us all?*

And the mirror answered:

*Queen, oh, Queen, so fair art thee,
But the new young queen, fairer yet is she.*

At this the queen was filled with more rage than she had ever felt before.



Off she headed to the feast, certain that just this once her mirror had lied. When she saw that the new queen was Snow White, she was so shocked that she couldn't move. But within moments, she leapt into the air, for her slippers had grown red-hot. The wicked queen danced and danced wildly until, finally, she dropped down dead.

And so the new queen Snow White and the prince lived happily ever after.

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